

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A hinged cover for a self-serve cooking utensil such as a soup or stock pot comprising a cover body having a wedge-shaped cutout portion, a wedge-shaped hinged section substantially the same shape and dimensions as the cutout portion fitted within the cutout portion and pivotally attached to the cover body along a central portion of a diameter of the cover body, said cover body and hinged section having circumferential perimeters which, when combined, define a total circumference of the hinged cover, wherein the circumferential perimeter of the hinged section is less than 50% of the total circumference of the hinged cover, whereby access can be gained to the cooking utensil by raising the hinged section for removing or adding food products to the interior of the utensil.
2. (Original) The hinged cover of claim 1 wherein the perimeter of the hinged section is between about 1/4 to 1/3 of the total circumference of the hinged cover.
3. (Original) The hinged cover of claim 1 wherein the hinged section includes a handle affixed thereto for raising and lowering the hinged section.
4. (Currently Amended) The hinged cover of claim 3 ~~wherein the cooking utensil is~~ adapted to fit on a stock or soup pot.
5. (Currently Amended) The hinged cover of claim 1 ~~wherein the cooking utensil is~~ adapted to fit on a soup pot and wherein the perimeter of the hinged section has a notched cutout formed therein to accommodate a soup ladle when the hinged section is in a closed position and wherein the hinged cover includes a handle for raising and lowering the hinged section.

6. (Original) The hinged cover of claim 1 wherein the perimeters of the cover body and hinged section are formed in the shape of an inverted "U" adapted to form a secure seat and vapor seal with a top edge of the cooking utensil.

7. (Currently Amended) The hinged cover of claim 6 ~~wherein the cooking utensil is adapted to fit on~~ a soup pot and wherein the perimeter of the hinged section has a notched cutout formed therein to accommodate a ladle and wherein the hinged section includes a handle for raising and lowering the hinged section and for lifting the hinged cover from the soup pot.

8. (Original) The hinged cover of claim 1 made from a 300 series stainless steel.

9. (Original) The hinged cover of claim 1 wherein the hinged section is pivotally attached to the cover body by way of a hinge assembly having hinge flanges attached to the hinged section and to the cover body.

10. (Original) The hinged cover of claim 1 wherein the hinged section is pivotally attached to the cover body by way of an integral hinge construction wherein a plurality of intermeshing rounded fingers of the hinge construction are integrally formed in the hinged section and in the cover body.